F.S.I. boats

603. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fishery Survey of India is operating boats to study the availability of marine resources in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs);

(b) if so, how many such boats are operating;

(c) what are the annual fixed and variable costs of operating and maintaining such boats;

(d) whether any cost benefit study has been done of the activities of the Fishery Survey of India; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the policies and utility of diverse objectives of the F.S.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Fishery Survey of India operates 13 vessels to study the availability of marine living resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone.

(c) The annual fixed and variable costs for operating and maintaining the boats are Rs. 11 crores and Rs. 19 crores respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The activities of Fishery Survey of India are reviewed periodically by the Evaluation Committees constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Presently, an Evaluation Committee with members from Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Coast Guard, Association of Indian Fisheries Industries, Planning Commission, Directorate General of Shipping and Integrated Finance Division in the Ministry has reviewed the policies and utility of diverse objectives of Fishery Survey of India.

Problems faced by chilly farmers of Andhra Pradesh

604. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of his Ministry the problems being faced by chilly farmers of Andhra Pradesh due to non-getting of remunerative price for chilly;

(b) if so, whether it has also come to the notice of his Ministry that in a matter of 45 days the price has fallen down from Rs. 7,500 per quintal to Rs. 4,500 per quintal; and

(c) what steps his Ministry is taking to help the chilly farmers of Andhra Pradesh and how it is planning to buy chillies from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Model prices of chillies during 2007-08 are higher than that during

the last year. The model price of chilly from April, 2007 to July, 2007 vary between Rs. 3400/- to Rs. 3800/- per quintal as against Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 3400/- from April to July, 2006. Though prevailing market prices of chillies are not so attractive but farmers are getting remunerative prices at present, considering the cost of production of the crop which is estimated to be around Rs. 2050/- per quintal.

(b) The maximum price of chilly was noticed to Rs. 7500/- per quintal in Khammam market during the month of January, 2007 which went down to the level of Rs. 5750/- per quintal during the month of May, 2007. But fluctuation in average price was only in the range of Rs. 5375/- to Rs. 3650/- per quintal. The chilly prices vary depending upon the quality and demand and generally the last picking lack quality and get lower price.

(c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken following steps to help the chilly farmers:

Pre Harvest Practices

Creating awareness on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for reducing the cost of production and improving the quality.

Post Harvest Practices

- Poly sheets for drying are encouraged to avoid the development of aflatoxins and contamination with extraneous matter which is the major problem in chillies.
- 1,15,237 no. of poly sheets were supplied with 33.3% assistance from 1996 to 2006.
- Walk-in type-solar driers are provided with 50% assistance for effective drying in short span in potential districts.
- Trainings and extension services are being provided for dissemination of the technology for quality improvement.

Promotion of organic fertilizers

605. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote organic fertilizers by giving subsidy and also market facilities; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, "National Project on Organic Farming" wherein subsidy for setting up of organic input production units @ 25% of the project cost up to a maximum of Rs. 40.00 lakh per unit for fruit and vegetable waste compost units, Rs. 20.00 lakh per unit for bio-fertilizer production units and Rs. 1.50 lakh per unit for Vermiculture hatcheries is being provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Co-operative Development Council (NCDC). Market Development is one of the components under